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MANAGUA: CIA "tantrums" cause rebel retreat

The ruling Sandinista party denounced rebel leader Eden Pastora and said the withdrawal of Pastora and his anti-Sandinista insurgents was "evidence of the CIA's temper tantrums and blackmail."

The Sunday editorial in the Sandinista party's newspaper Barricada came four days after Pastora said lack of supplies had forced him to suspend a two-month rebellion against the regime he helped bring to power in 1979.

Pastora, a hero of the 1979 revolution once known as "Commander Zero," left Nicaragua in 1981 and denounced his former comrades, whom he accused of adopting a Cuban government model.

In April, Pastora announced he and his troops had entered Nicaragua and said the government would fall within six months.

The government party newspaper called Pastora a "deluxe mercenary," claiming he demanded \$300,000 monthly from the Reagan administration.

"Without a doubt, with this negotiation Pastora has assured (himself) a prominent place in history ... as the most expensive coward the imperialists have dealt with," the editorial said.

Barricada's editorial said: "The ultimate act of the comedy is the pompously titled 'retreat' or 'ceasefire' of the counterrevolutionary bands of the traitor (Pastora) that operate from Costa Rica, (that is) evidence of the CIA's temper tantrums and blackmail."

Pastora's several hundred followers, who included Costa Ricans, operated out of neighboring Costa Rica.

Several thousand U.S.-backed rebels linked to former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza continue to fight from camps on the Honduran border with Nicaragua.

Journalists on the Honduran side of the border reported the guerrillas based there appeared to be regrouping and planning a new offensive.

Barricada said "Pastora and the Somocistas are only one card, though not completely played ... in the war of attrition."

Warning that full-scale war might erupt with Honduras, Barricada also reported that Cmdr. Joaquin Cuadra, deputy defense minister and army chief of staff, urged Nicaraguans to "be prepared to defeat even American troops."

The United States this month stationed 120 Green Berets at a new U.S. military training center on Honduras' Atlantic coast.

Tensions between Washington and the Marxist-led Managua government escalated the past week amid U.S. allegations that Nicaraguan troops intentionally killed two American newsmen on the border with Honduras.